



Political systems of two great countries

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Introduction

The Russian Federation and Britain Monarchy, what can be similar in these total different systems and what system is better? Let's check and compare two opposite competitive state organization. In order to compare we touch several separate topics, such as:

1. The head of the state (official/unofficial)
2. Power branches: executive, legislative, judicial
3. State division

The Head of State (official/unofficial)

Great Britain is one of the oldest constitution monarchies in Europe. The official head of the union and the state is the king or Queen. Its history starts in 871 from Alfred the Great.



The monarch is the official source of legislation, executive and judicial power in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The leader of the biggest party in the lower chamber have to be appointed by the King (Queen) for prime minister according to the convention but in fact King or Queen has a right to appoint any British citizen to be a true head of the executive power. Nevertheless it never happened before 😊



If we look deeper to the formal rights of the ruler we can find some very interesting facts:

1. The monarch can veto all bills or bills drafts.
2. He/she can dissolve the parliament without prime minister Agreement.
3. They can declare the war but only if parliament will approve it.
4. Almost all the most important official ceremonies are provided by royal household.

It must be pointed out that all these rights were not implemented at least last 200 years but still has power and were not demolished in case of emergency.

The total power of the British crown came to an end in 1653 when Oliver Cromwell usurped the power and became a warlord. But approximately 50 years later and after Cromwell's death the first unofficial Prime Minister Robert Walpole took an executive power for Great Britain in his hands. Since that time the monarch reign but not rule.

The Russian Federation

The official head of the country is the President. Nowadays it is quite young form of rule. The official title the president of the Russian Federation was implemented only in 1991.

Going to the constitution The President has the biggest power in Russia and the same time he/she is the chief commander of the Russian army forces and the main fact that the President is the Guarantor of the Constitution.



The President is the only one position in the state which is elected for one person in the all nation voting.

All rights are stated in the Constitution.

President of Russia rules several federal authorities opposite to British crown for instance who delegated all executive power to prime minister.

The head of the state determines and charges for the whole foreign and internal affairs of the whole country and gives a mandate for prime minister to provide internal policy according to a president's decree. All these decrees, bills and orders are delegated acts (by-law). And compare to GB president can demolish a government decree as well which is happened against to GB. In general we can define this model as president gives a decree (vector) and the government making all executive implementation according to president's commitment. If government doesn't follow the general line it can be dissolved by head of the state.

Russian president versus British monarch deals much more with executive power more over he/she suggests bill drafts appoints judges for federal courts makes appointments for highest command of the army forces, accepts foreign ambassadors etc.

Let's have a brief look into the history of Russian presidency. First Tsars of all Russia appeared in X-th century like in GB here we could be on the same step of the civilization. And these

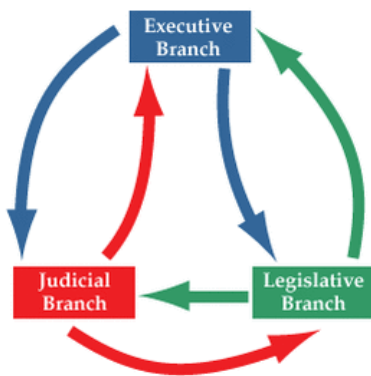
institutions of monarchy reigned and ruled till the beginning of 20-th century when red revolution occurred. During monarch's time rule of the king/queen was absolute and was totally supported by the archbishop symbolizing God's blessing of the monarch's family.

Right after the revolution the whole power was usurped by soviets presented by civil delegators to the party. All these delegates voted for the highest executive authority – Central Committee of the Soviet Communistic Party. The Central Committee in turn has a general secretary who was official head of the state with almost unlimited power in the country. All this happened until second revolution in 1991 when Soviet Union melted in history of our country and new constitution which was partly copied from French one was established and the President power were stated.



Power branches

In both countries we can find **the separation of powers**, often imprecisely used interchangeably with the *trias politica* principle is a model for the governance of a state (or who controls the state). The model was first developed in ancient Greece. Under this model, the state is divided into branches, each with separate and independent powers and areas of responsibility so that the powers of one branch are not in conflict with the powers associated with the other branches. The typical division of branches is into a legislature, an executive, and a judiciary.



Separation of powers, therefore, refers to the division of responsibilities into distinct branches to limit any one branch from exercising the core functions of another. The intent is to prevent the concentration of power and provide for checks and balances.

Executive branch

Great Britain

The Government performs the executive power in Great Britain, government is also famous as Cabinet (of ministers). Monarch appoints prime minister as we mentioned above. The appointment must follow the convention so the candidate has to be a member of lower chamber of British parliament and must have sufficient support from the chamber.

The prime minister has to build up a new cabinet approximately 20 ministers at first steps of his appointing.

The government as an executive power itself is responsible before the parliament (legislative power). The cabinet can be dismissed if it gets a motion of nonconfidence. Otherwise the cabinet has a right to dissolve the parliament in turn to announce a new election.

The executive power in Great Britain is not very stratified because the country was built as unitary state so all power is concentrated in central power government.

The Russian Federation

The executive power in the Russian Federation is much more complicated system due to the federal state of power. The primary task of the executive power is to provide political implementation of the constitution and other bills. This implementation is provided by administrative power to the nation by government means.

The body of executive power is forming by election among all people of Russian federation.

Federal agencies of executive power.

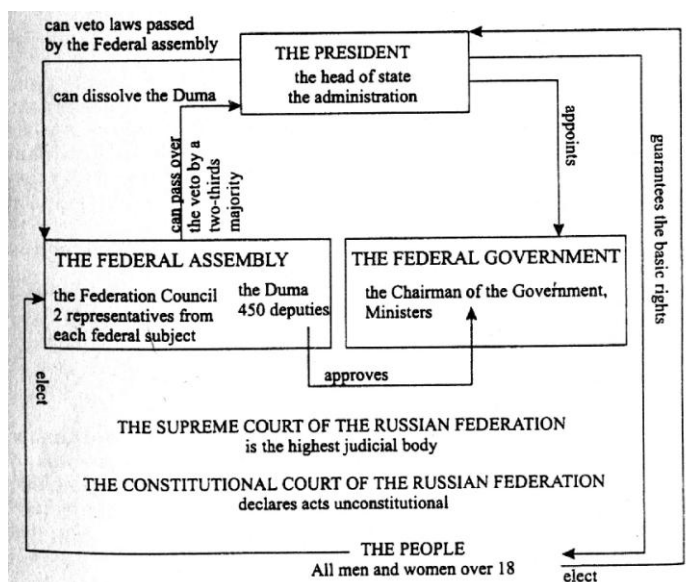
It is divided into 3 parts:

- Ministers
- Federal services
- Federal agencies

Regional agencies of executive power.

It is divided into 2 parts:

- Ministers
- Committees



There are main functions of the executive power in the Russian Federation:

- Sub-law regulation
- Administrative management
- Administration of law
- Licensing, registration and certification process management
- Administrative control for legal regulations and rules
- Policing and security functions
- State system communication

You can find that state division in The Russian Federation is much more complicated compare to Great Britain due to the different system Unitary and Federative. It is easily can be described by the maps and territory comparison. The Russian Federation is the biggest country in the world has 17 125 191 sqkm and Great Britain is only in 78-th position with territory of 244 820 sqkm.



The differences are 70 times so you can say that Russia consists of 70 Great Britains. It is impossible to manage such a huge country as Unitary in order to provide some management you have to delegate some authorities to locals.

Legislative branch

Great Britain

Parliament is the trinity of Monarch, lords chamber and lower chamber is the legislative branch of power in Great Britain. This determination is connected with law acceptance procedure. The draft of the bill can take legal effect only if it is accepted by both chambers and signed by the Monarch.

The legal functions are realized by lower chamber in fact. The Monarch signs all drafts and don't veto bills last 300 years. If lord chamber vetoes the draft the lower one can overcome it just

getting the majority in voting. But the Lords chamber can postpone for a year some limited legal bills.

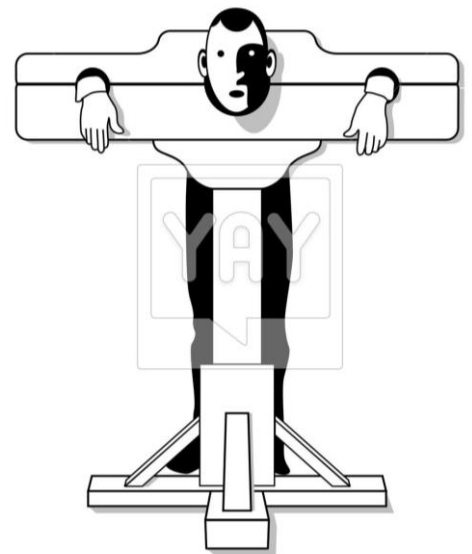
It is interesting fact that the head of the state is the part of the parliament still he/she is the part of the executive branch of power.

Lower chamber consists of 651 members. They can be elected by majority constituency. Members (deputy) have a restricted immunity only during session and 40 days before as well after the sitting. Deputy can have 3 assistances. The income is quite small it is about 31 000 pounds a year. It is considered that this amount is one of the smallest in the world.

Deputy must work hard with their electorate because only voters define the future of the member despite the nomination of the party. Usually local party depts. help their deputies to meet local people needs.

The speaker of the lower chamber presides the sitting. There are 3 assistants take over the session if the parliament forms a committee. The speaker is being elected once for all parliament term. Also he/she must defect from a party to be independent and neutral. Some odd things still exists from ancient times that the speaker can't go for lunch with ordinary members in order to avoid anybody's influence. The speaker can't vote for any draft but only in case of parity rate in voting.

Coming back to bizarre traditions still the speaker is trying to resist getting into the chair when he was elected and some of big guys from the members "help" him to get the position. This story goes to times when the speaker has



to declare parliament decisions to the monarch and sometimes this ends not very well to the speaker in the Middle Ages. Lower chamber delegates some members to form committees. And the interesting fact that committees can be issue-related and also can be just general one. All the drafts have to pass through all these committees.

The upper chamber (Lords one) is changeable organization. Membership can be inherited. 2/3-rd of the chamber is temporal peers, 1/3 is life peers and 26 spiritual peers (bishops and archbishops). 20 peers are life peers who were appointed by the monarch for the appeal committee (the highest judicial instance for civil suites). Plus by the dozens Scottish and Irish Lords.

There is a question about Lords Chamber termination was raised up several times but still was not stated.

The Russian Federation

Federal assembly of the Russian Federation represents the legislative power. It is representational body which consists of Federal Council and State Duma. Sub-Federal units also have their own local dumas for local laws. State Duma is elected directly by all people of Russian Federation. The 50% of Federal Council members are elected by local unit people and the rest 50% are appointed by the head of the same local territory. Both chambers work separately and get together only in exceptional times to listen to the president or to the other main events.



The regulations for both chambers are quite similar. Both of them have committees both have a speaker. Every chamber has its own regulations concerning timing and inside cooperation.

Both chambers together have to form Russian Audit Chamber to control budget law.

Members of both chambers have immunity during the whole time of being a member. They can lose this privilege only after the recommendation of the procurer and chamber approval.

There are some different functions of the Federal Council:

- The border of federal unit defining
- Martial law enactment
- State of emergency enactment

- Permission of Russian army forces overseas operations
- President elections
- Drawing up judges for a constitutional court, supreme arbitration court, supreme court
- Assignment to a position of a general procurer
- Assignment to a position of a vice-chairman of Russian Audit Chamber

State Duma is a lower chamber and represents all population of the Russian Federation. It consists of 450 deputies who are elected for 4 years. 50% of deputies are electing from single member district. The other 50% represents federal political party lists. To come to the State Duma they need to overcome 5% stop barrier.



There are some different functions of the State Duma:

- Prime minister Drawing up
- Chairman of the Central Bank of the RF assignment
- Assignment to a position of a vice-chairman of Russian Audit Chamber
- Assignment to a 50% positions of an auditor of Russian Audit Chamber
- Assignment to a position of ombudsmen
- Lawmaking

Judicial branch

Great Britain

There is the whole system of courts and tribunals.

England and Wales court system consists of:

- Supreme Court of England and Wales which in turn consists of Appeal court, High, Crown court
- magistrate's court
- country courts

There is a complicated system of administrative tribunals. They refer to the professional sphere. The military courts as well as spiritual courts take place in Great Britain.

Civil and crime court forms supreme appeal court. Civil court deals with country courts and tribunals suites and crime court deals with crown court ones.



High court is for three departments:

- chancery division of high court is general civil court
- King's Bench Division is the appeal court of first instance
- Family Division deals with family judicial disputes.

Crown court judges bad crimes and deals with appealing from magistrate's courts.

Country courts deals with easy lawsuits.

The Russian Federation

The system itself is a little bit easier then British one but still any judicial system is quite complicated.

The main authority is the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. It consists of several parts:

- The Russian Federation Supreme Court Plenum
- The general committee of Supreme Court
- Appeal court panel
- Administrative court panel
- Crime court panel
- Civil court panel
- Chamber for Commercial Disputes of the Supreme Court
- Chamber for military cases of the Supreme Court
- Disciplinary board of the Supreme Court
- Administrative office of the Supreme Court
- Bodies of the judiciary of the Supreme Court
- Research advisory council of the Supreme Court

All regional courts are general jurisdiction courts included regional, republicans, local, cities, towns, districts etc. They all deal with civil and crime suites.

The first step of the system is the district court. It is the most widespread and common court in the Russian Federation. It consists of professional judges. Districts courts are probably the busiest court in the whole system.

All arbitrary courts are Federal courts. They deal with only legal bodies.

Constitutional court refers only to the constitution and laws.

State division

Great Britain

It is a unitary state with division into 45 counties. The Counties in turn consist of 296 districts. There is only one exception of this rule – Big London which is split into 32 city districts and the City.

There are 22 counties and 11 city-counties form the Wales territory. As well as 6 counties and 26 districts form Northern Ireland and 32 local units form Scotland.

We can mentioned that British territory is quite small as we compared earlier that reflects the state division it is easy to know.



The Russian Federation

Subject is the single unit of the territory division of the Russian Federation.

The Federation consists of 85 subjects according to the constitution. The unit can be republic or region or city or even autonomous region.

All subjects are equal in their rights referring to the federal center. All subjects have its own constitution or charter, the head of local government, legislative assembly. The main idea is that all subjects have no legal right to leave the Federation.



Conclusion

To conclude the report I've drawn up the comparison table which shows us the similarities and differences of two political systems.

The table of comparison

<div> <div>The country</div> <div>The parts of political system</div> </div>	The Russian Federation	Great Britain
Political system	A federal semi-presidential republic	A constitutional monarchy
The main document	The Constitution	A set of laws
The Head of State	The President	The Monarch
The branches of power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Executive branch</i> • <i>Legislative branch</i> • <i>Judicial branch</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Executive branch</i> • <i>Legislative branch</i> • <i>Judicial branch</i>
State division	85 units	45 counties

We can see very different highly developed countries. Each of them has its own way in the history, its own mission and worldview.

We can find some very strong and weak sides of internal policy and state organizations in both of them.

Look at some lacks of the British political system:

- very complicated and very expensive judicial system,
- very separated and highly independent regions like Scotland and Northern Ireland which is trying to leave the kingdom,
- almost useless Lords chamber,
- very limited army forces
- lots of problems with former colonies in GB.

At the same time lacks of the Russian political system are

- the control system just can't work well in such huge territory,
- quite high bureaucracy inherited from the wild mixture of monarchism and communism,
- huge variety in culture in different parts of the country.

Nevertheless both of them are probably the greatest countries in the world who affected the world history and their neighbors much.

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